

IN THE CLAIMS

*The status of the claims as presently amended is as follows:*

1. (*Currently Amended*) A hermetic compressor comprising:
  - an electric motor unit;
  - a compressing unit driven by the electric motor unit; and
  - a hermetic container accommodating the electric motor unit and the compressing unit, wherein the compressing unit comprises:
    - a compressing room having an opening;
    - a suction valve disposed at the opening of the compressing room; and
    - a suction muffler having:
      - a suction muffler body forming a sound-deadening space;
      - a first communicating path communicating with the suction valve and with the sound-deadening space; and
      - a second communicating path communicating with the hermetic container and with the sound-deadening space,
  - wherein an opening, which is situated in the sound-deadening space, of the first communicating path, and an opening, which is situated in the sound-deadening space, of the second communicating path open in a substantially identical direction and in a horizontal direction,
  - wherein a wall of the suction muffler body has an integrally formed fixed sound-insulating wall forming an opposite vertical face confronting both of the openings of the first and second communication paths situated in the sound-deadening space, and the integrally formed fixed sound-insulating wall reinforcing the wall a frame of the suction muffler body, and
  - wherein the sound-insulating wall and the wall of the suction muffler body form a blocked sealed space to reduce sound transmission.

2-3. (*Canceled*)

4. (*Previously Presented*) The hermetic compressor of claim 1, wherein the suction muffler is made from synthetic resin and formed of at least two components.

5. (*Currently Amended*) A hermetic compressor comprising:
 

- an electric motor unit;

a compressing unit driven by the electric motor unit; and  
a hermetic container accommodating the electric motor unit and the compressing unit,  
wherein the compressing unit comprises:  
a compressing room having an opening;  
a suction valve disposed at the opening of the compressing room; and  
a suction muffler having:  
a suction muffler body forming a sound-deadening space;  
a first communicating path communicating with the suction valve and with the sound-deadening space; and

a second communicating path communicating with the hermetic container and with the sound-deadening space,

wherein an opening, which is situated in the sound-deadening space, of the first communicating path, and an opening, which is situated in the sound-deadening space, of the second communicating path open in a substantially identical direction and in a horizontal direction,

wherein a wall of the suction muffler body has an integrally formed fixed sound-insulating wall at a place at least confronting both of the openings situated in the sound-deadening space, and reinforcing the wall of the suction muffler body,

wherein the sound-insulating wall works as a guiding wall for guiding gas sucked from the second communication path to the first communication path smoothly, ~~and~~

wherein the first communication path is disposed above the second communication path, ~~and~~

wherein the sound-insulating wall and the wall of the suction muffler body form a blocked sealed space to reduce sound transmission.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Previously Presented) The hermetic compressor of claim 5, wherein:

the suction muffler is made from synthetic resin and formed of at least two components,  
and

the sound-insulating wall is disposed vertically with respect to an opening face of the suction muffler body.